

Saturday Gazette.

Bloomfield and Montclair, N. J.
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OUR PRINCIPAL OFFICE is next door to the Post Office in Bloomfield.

The Saturday Gazette.

BLOOMFIELD AND MONTCLAIR.
An independent weekly journal of LITERATURE, EDUCATION, POLITICS, GENERAL NEWS and LOCAL INTERESTS.

All public and local questions, including political and social, sanitary and reformatory, educational and industrial topics will be clearly presented and fully and fairly discussed.

It is intended and expected to make it not only readable and interesting to the general reader, but of special value to citizens of the county and of real importance to every resident of Bloomfield, Montclair and Caldwell.

Nothing will be admitted to its columns that is unworthy of cordial welcome to every family circle.

Settled Clergymen in the county, and all Public School Teachers in the county will receive the paper gratuitously by sending their address.

It should prove a valuable medium for advertising. Our weekly circulation extends to every part of Essex county, and consequently elsewhere. Subscriptions and advertisements will be received in Montclair, by E. M. Allison; in Caldwell, by M. M. Morrison; in Verona, by W. L. Scott; in Newark, by W. H. Winters, 445 Broad street, and at our office in Bloomfield, or by mail to Wm. P. Lyon, Editor, and Proprietor, Bloomfield, N. J.

PRINCIPLES OF ASSESSMENTS.

If our article of last week on Assessments attracted considerable attention and elicits much comment, it is because of the momentous importance of the subject and of the wide spread feeling of dissatisfaction with the present uncertain and arbitrary manner of valuing property.

It is not the *fact* of taxation, nor the *amount*, even, which occasions discontent. Very few are so stupid as to expect or so liberal as to wish to avoid their proper contribution to the necessary revenues of the government and to important and lawful public improvements.

The real ground of opposition can be traced to the conviction that the *levy* is not based upon true principles of fairness and equity. Americans will not long brook or tolerate injustice; but they will cheerfully submit to any amount of tax for a righteous cause, if it be levied on *principle and equity*. Intelligent persons will think and reason, and they cannot fail to perceive the gross injustice of a system which allows one man with a two acre lot and dwelling (which he perhaps overvalues at \$20,000) to be taxed *half* as much as his next neighbor whose *fifteen or twenty* similar lots would be considered cheap at \$80,000. And such inconsistencies are neither few nor rare.

But this dissatisfaction is not confined to one town, it exists in, probably, every town in the State, outside of the cities. Neither is it chargeable to the corruptibility or partiality of assessors. They are generally selected for their intelligence and probity, and they may be presumed to be reasonably efficient and faithful. We feel that we are acting for thousands of our fellow citizens in Essex county in this endeavor to expose the evils of our assessment system, if that may be called a system which is without regularity, consistency and definiteness.

We want a system that is based on known and admitted principles of taxation, and which is elastic enough to be adjusted to every variety of case, without being warped unfairly by fallacious reasoning or plausible statements. We want a system which does not leave the entire valuation of our properties in every separate instance to the arbitrary opinion of the single assessor whose judgment must frequently be given with insufficient consideration and always without any well-defined rule to govern it.

Our former article we think outlined such a system. (1). It proposed a regular basis of assessment dividing the real estate of the town into two classes—Farm-lands and Village Lots. (2). Each of these classes to be subdivided into *three grades*, according to the eligibility and desirability of location. (3) The Farm-lands to be valued by the acre, each *grade* to have a fixed price. (4) The Village Lots on the built up streets and in the compact part of the town to be valued by the *running foot of frontage* on the street, allowing a uniform depth of *say not over 300 feet as the standard of depth*. (5) It proposed that the grades referred to be fixed by the combined wisdom of the Town Committee or, it thought best, by a commission of independent citizens appointed by the Town Committee. (6) That the varying depth of the different lots be provided for by adding to the price of the frontage foot a certain equitable sum for each additional 100 feet of depth of *rear land*. (7) That the village dwellings be separately classified in six grades according to the adjusted cost of the same.

Now to make this proposed system clear to the most casual reader let us illustrate the manner of its operation.

The Town Committee, we will suppose, takes the initiative by (1a) Assigning the bounds of the two districts which may be known as

THE RURAL DISTRICT, comprising all the Farm lands; and THE VILLAGE DISTRICT, comprising the streets and intervening blocks of lots and plots and houses.

(2nd). Designating the limits and character of the three grades in each class. In the Rural District it may not always be easy to distinguish the three grades. The points of distinction would be—nearness to village centre or Railroad Depot; Attrac-

butes and condition of the land; and the character of the buildings and improvements. According to these peculiarities each farm would be graded as—Minimum or lowest value. Medium or average. Maximum or highest.

In the village proper, the Committee would determine which locations should belong to which *grades*:—

The minimum or lowest value.

The medium or average.

The maximum or highest.

We regret the necessity to lay over till another week several valued communications already in type, especially one from Montclair; and one (Maud Manning) from Bloomfield.

The new City Government of Belleville organized Monday night, by the election of O. H. Perry as President of the Common Council, and H. B. Marchbank as City Clerk.

The PRESIDENT'S VETO of the Indenture Bill of Congress was sustained by a close vote of the Senate where the bill originated, which gives it its quietus.

There is no doubt that the considerable vote

against the veto was instigated by the personal pride of Senators rather than by any real wish or hope to force the measure in opposition to the sound objections of the President and the manifested and preponderating opinions of wisdom and experience in all the principal business circles throughout the country.

Whether Congress includes any statesmen of prescience enough and capacity

enough to devise an acceptable and safe

scheme of finance to meet the present exigencies of the country may reasonably be feared.

One of the most attractive, enjoyable and instructive entertainments that has been opened to the public in a long time will be THE BAZAAR OF ALL NATIONS, at the Industrial building, Newark, to open May 6th and continue four weeks for the benefit of the Young Men's Christian Association.

John C. Doremus, Jr. has retired from the firm of W. L. Doremus & Bros., choosing a farm life at Podington Plains. "Senate man" is the expression of our editorial congratulations.

Hereafter the firm will be a formerly,

Jno. C. Doremus & Son, whose advertise-

ment will be found in our columns, and

whose place of business includes the Post

Office, and a large variety of dry goods,

groceries, canned fruits, &c., which are

served to customers with that best of ser-

vice—courteous attention and agreeable

manner.

The Congregational Church held their

last social for the season on Wednesday

evening, which was rendered doubly inter-

esting as a leave taking meeting, prior to the

departure of the pastor, on his six

months' furlough.

A purse of \$450, quietly made up by the

members, no less thoughtful and timely than

generous and significant, was handed to the

esteemed Pastor at the close of a short

but well conceived and well delivered

speech of Geo. Merriam, Esq., who knows

so well how to do it. Mr. Bradford's reply

of acceptance will not soon be forgotten.

The occasion was altogether one of unusual

interest.

The thought of every one was, it can only be surpassed by the reception which is looked forward to when we shall welcome him back in the Autumn.

Rev. Mr. Bradford has decided to take

his family with him. Mr. and Mrs. Sweet

will accompany them on their outward

trip.

We hope our Montclair people will read

and ponder the letter of our Caldwell cor-

respondent.

—

CALDWELL—GEN. OF THE HILLS.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

Residents of suburban localities make a

great mistake when they fail to encourage

local trade. Owners of real estate, whose

interests are identified with the growth

and prosperity of the place in which their

property is located, depreciate the value of

their possessions in proportion to the dis-

couragement they throw in the way of the

business of their neighborhood. Hence,

every dollar invested in merchandise in ad-

joining or remote markets is just so much

capital diverted from its legitimate chan-

nel, and, of course, lost to the locality in

which, as a matter of political economy, it

money is never left in the safe at night.

"Grandfather Britten's little Old Folks"

from Newark, gave a Concert in the Meth-

odist Church, in this village, on Wednes-

day evening, for the benefit of that church.

All Mr. Peale's houses in west end, are

reduced and occupied.

The Condit houses, fronting the Park,

have been purchased, and work will be re-

commended on them on Monday. They

will be urged on to rapid completion.

TOWN COUNCIL.—We have the authority

of an official for saying that they did nothing

at their last meeting or, at least, next

to nothing. They only ordered Myrtle

Avenue, in the Morris Neighborhood, to be

opened, and "dedicated" two streets on the

Rope property at Watsecah; and re-

solved to give notice that all applications for

Telfordizing streets in Bloomfield this

year must be made before the 1st of July.

Mr. C. W. Powers and Son have rented

half of the GAZETTE office, where they will

be in attendance and be happy to receive

orders for coal, &c.

We recommend residents of Bloomfield

to read and ponder the letter of our Cald-

well correspondent.

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MONTCLAIR LIBRARY—GOUGH'S

LECTURE.

Nothing could better prove the interest

felt in this Institution by the citizens of

our town than the numerous attendance

and highly respectable character of the holders

of \$1 tickets at the lecture of Mr. Gough

on Monday evening in the Congregational

Church. The Lecture was in his happiest vein, his subject was well chosen;

we have never known him to acquit himself better. We are persuaded that the

benefits will be enduring, in the hearts and

minds of the hearers, and in the families

represented; and in the intellectual fruits

which will be developed through the un-

derstanding of the audience.

The same argument is equally significant

when applied to the prices demanded at

these stores for merchandise, &c. For is

it not true that the very limited amount

of business transacted by them, precludes

the possibility of their adjusting prices to

conform to those adopted in our metropoli-

tan cities? "Quick Sales and Small Profits"

is the only safe policy for city mer-

chants. But could our country stores

maintain their existence for any length of

time, if the modality was only partially

reversed, so as to read "Slow Sales and

Small Profits?" I pause for a reply!

Mr. John M. Head, one of the regular

store-keepers of this village, has formed a

co-partnership with Mr. Hubert M. Bon-

ham, a young man of excellent moral

worth and sound business qualifications.

Moess Campbell & Lane, the popular

booksellers of this village, have disposed

of their business and contemplate resting

henceforth on their well-earned laurels.—